



Center for Community Preparedness – Pandemic Influenza

The Center for Community Preparedness (CCP) serves as the catalyst that efficiently carries out the roles and responsibilities of the Emergency Support Function (ESF)- 8. ESF-8 is responsible for providing leadership for planning, directing and coordinating the overall State efforts to provide public health and medical services. The Pandemic Influenza Program works to ensure that the state is ready to respond to a serious pandemic through education, community mitigation and control. A robust, prepared Pandemic Influenza Program improves the ability of Louisiana to protect the health of the public by reducing morbidity and mortality.

Objective

Ensure the readiness of the state to respond to a serious pandemic influenza which a special emphasis on control, community mitigation and education.

Performance Indicators

1. CDC PHEP Cooperative Agreement
2. Turst for America's Health Report
3. Real-Life and Exercise After Action Reports and Common Action Plans
4. National Report Card on Emergency
5. Pandemic Influenza Operations Evaluation

Narrative

Preparedness for all hazards includes preparation, planning, training, education, exercise, evaluation and response activities for an influenza pandemic. Federal government funding has been provided to Louisiana with specific grant deliverables. Planning for pandemic influenza response has been a part of public health preparedness, with an increase in focus in the past five years. Planning includes state level coordination with response partners, plan guidance for the development of regional and community plans and coordination with response partners. Plans for pandemic influenza response were evaluated by the federal government in 2008.

There are eight planning pieces related to public health. These main planning objectives assure the coordination of Public Health response. These include: Ensure

Surveillance and Laboratory Capability; Assist with controls at US Ports of Entry; Implement Community Mitigation Interventions; Acquire and Distribute Medical Countermeasures; Ensure Mass Vaccination Capacity; and to Ensure Communication Capability and Integrate EMS and 911 in to pandemic preparedness.

Outreach to response partners and to the general public has been the focus of training and education by the Louisiana Office of Public Health over the past few years. Table top exercises and Summits were conducted in each region of the State. Plans are validated and improved by exercises and real world response activities. The Spring 2009 response to H1N1 required a public health response and an after action review was completed. Currently, the Louisiana Office of Public Health is in response to the ongoing, evolving 2009 H1N1 disease epidemic.

The continued threat of an influenza outbreak worldwide poses many devastating consequences to key personnel and critical infrastructure for Louisiana. An influenza pandemic will reduce the availability of resources and severely challenges government, businesses, schools, healthcare, tourism, finance, etc. in planning for potentially devastating consequences. The workforce will be challenged to continue operations as adequate numbers of workers may not be available to deliver services. An influenza pandemic will likely disrupt the societal norms, migration of people, durable goods and services. The ability of any public or private sector industry to continue operations and deliver essential services will be challenged. At the start of an influenza pandemic and for the duration, individuals, communities, industry, and government will be dependent upon their own resources. Preparedness for and response to a pandemic outbreak is shared responsibility of all levels of government and the private sector.

During pandemic influenza response coordination and communication is critical. Up to date guidance assists public health officials and the public address the challenges posed by this public health threat. Information to the public and guidance to response partners such as health care providers, hospitals, nursing homes and to specific groups such as travelers, pregnant women and schools is critical for disease control and mitigation. Guidance on antiviral medication, seasonal and novel vaccination, facemask and respirator use and care for ill persons, to name a few areas is provided by Public Health. Strong risk communication messages and public information provide guidance to the public.

The activities of the Pandemic Influenza Program provide information to help promote and improve health outcomes for individuals, communities and the State. Cooperative agreement application, budget maintenance, required reporting and mandated activities provides a funding source for these activities in Louisiana. Pandemic Influenza preparedness reaches across several Centers and is coordinated by the Center for Community Preparedness.

The Center for Community Preparedness also includes state and parish level stakeholders in planning and response. These agencies include parish and Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Louisiana State Police and the Louisiana National Guard, as well as many other state agencies and organizations and associations, such as the Louisiana Hospital Association and the Louisiana Nursing Home Association. The Louisiana Office of Public Health's Emergency Operations Center was utilized during the 2009 Spring H1N1 response activities. The Louisiana Office of Public Health provides guidance on medication and vaccine usage and conducts expanded outreach specific to each public health emergency. Outreach to encourage participation in the 2009 H1N1 Vaccine Provider registration process to agencies, organizations and associations is an example of public health in action.

Operational preparedness within the Incident Management System, stockpiling of personal protective equipment and medications, medical countermeasure dispensing, occupational health and safety and human resources policies and active engagement of the community in risk reduction and mitigation efforts are activities that advance the state goal of ensuring the health of the public. These activities are required for an efficient and effective response to an influenza pandemic. Many activities for response preparedness can be applied to any infectious disease, whether it is an intentional or natural disease process.

Better Health

The Pandemic Influenza Program assists in the development, exercise and evaluation of regional plans. Program mandates improve planning with stakeholders and response partners.

The following details the strongest evidence of the results produced by this program:

Trust for America's Health Report: Ready or Not? (Report scores states based on their readiness as shown by 10 indicators .)

- 2006: 6 out of 10
- 2007: 8 out of 10
- 2008: 10 out of 10

National Report Card on State Emergency Management (Reports scores states based on their overall readiness.)

- 2008: Disaster Preparedness – A
2008 Pandemic Influenza Operation Plan Evaluation (Federal evaluation of objectives for preparedness)

Acquire and Distribute Medical Countermeasures-99%

Strategic National Stockpile Technical Assistance Review (Review assess state's to implement and receive this federal resource.)

- 2007: 83%
- 2008: 94%
- 2009:100%